

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01

TRSE-00 AID-05 /061 W

-----080932Z 069201 /15

R 080819Z MAR 77

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5962

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 3235

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, JA, ASEAN

SUBJECT: FUKUDA, HATOYAMA SOUTHEAST ASIA TRIPS

SUMMARY: JAPAN AND ASEAN STATES SEEM NEAR AGREEMENT ON MANAGEMENT AND TIMING OF JAPANESE TOP-LEVEL VISITS TO SOUTHEAST ASIA. FONMIN MAY MEET SEVERALLY WITH OPPOSITE NUMBERS IN SINGAPORE IN JUNE, AND IN ANY EVENT WILL VISIT ALL CAPITALS. STAGE THUS SET, PRIMIN FUKUDA WILL MEET WITH ASEAN LEADERS IN KUALA LUMPUR FOLLOWING -- OR PERHAPS AS ADD-ON TO -- ASEAN SUMMIT AUGUST 4-7. JAPANESE STILL UNDECIDED WHAT SUBSTANTIVE CONTENT TO PUT INTO VISITS, BUT UPDATED SOUTHEAST ASIA POLICY SHOULD GEL FOLLOWING FUKUDA'S VISIT TO US AND FIRST SESSION OF "JAPAN-ASEAN CONSULTATIVE FORUM," BOTH LATE THIS MONTH. END SUMMARY.

1. CHIEF CABINET SECRETARY SONODA TOLD PRESS ON
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MARCH 7 THAT PRIMIN FUKUDA PLANS TO MEET WITH ASEAN LEADERS DURING ASEAN SUMMIT IN KUALA LUMPUR BEGINNING AUGUST 4. SONODA SAID ALSO THAT FONMIN HATOYAMA IS SCHEDULED TO VISIT ASEAN STATES IN JUNE. HATOYAMA VISIT WOULD BE TIMED TO COINCIDE WITH MEETING OF ASEAN FOREIGN MINISTERS.

2. SONODA REMARKS, ATTRIBUTED BY MEDIA TO "GOVERNMENT SOURCE," WERE MADE AFTER FUKUDA MEETING WITH JAPANESE AMBASSADORS TO ASEAN COUNTRIES. (AMBASSADORS HAD BEEN SUMMONED TO TOKYO TO BRIEF FUKUDA IN PREPARATION FOR HIS MEETINGS WITH PRESIDENT CARTER MARCH 20-21.) INASMUCH AS ARRANGEMENTS FOR JAPANESE LEADERS' VISITS TO SOUTHEAST ASIA STILL TENTATIVE, FONOFF CONSIDERS SONODA'S REMARKS PREMATURE, AND IS ANNOYED ONCE MORE AT BEING UPSTAGED BY CHIEF CABINET SECRETARY.

3. MOFA ASIA REGIONAL POLICY DIVDIR TAKEHIKO NISHIYAMA TOLD EMBOFF THAT WHILE FONOFF SURE THAT FUKUDA WILL BE INVITED TO MEET WITH ASEAN LEADERS FOLLOWING OR DURING THEIR KUALA LUMPUR SUMMIT, GOJ STILL AWAITING FORMAL INVITATION. NISHIYAMA SAID ASEAN LEADERS WOULD BE ACTING ON THEIR PERCEPTION OF FUKUDA AS DEEPLY CONCERNED FOR FUTURE COURSE OF REGION; IN CONTRAST, THEY HAD SEEN HIS PREDECESSOR, MIKI, AS MORE INTENT ON USING ATTEMPTED 1976 SUMMIT MEETING WITH THEM TO BOOST SAGGING DOMESTIC POLITICAL FURTUNES. JAPANESE HAVE BEEN STRUCK, HE SAID, BY ASEAN NOTION THAT JAPANESE HAVE SHOWN SCANT REGARD FOR NON-COMMUNIST STATES OF REGION IN RECENT YEARS. GOJ SEES FUKUDA MEETING WITH ASEAN LEADERS AND STAGE-SETTING ROUND OF VISITS TO ASEAN CAPITALS BY FONMIN HATOYAMA AS MEANS OF RECTIFYING THIS IMPRESSION.

4. IF ALL GOES WELL, EMBASSY TOLD, HATOYAMA MAY BE CONFIDENTIAL

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INVITED TO MAKE APPEARANCE AT TENTH CONFERENCE OF ASEAN FOREIGN MINISTERS, WHICH IS EXPECTED TO TAKE PLACE IN SINGAPORE SOMETIME IN JUNE, PRIOR TO VISITING OTHER ASEAN CAPITALS. JAPANESE AMBASSADORS TO ASEAN COUNTRIES HAVE STRESSED THAT HATOYAMA SHOULD BE READY TO MAKE CLEAR JAPAN'S BASIC POLICY TOWARD THE REGION, INCLUDING ITS INTENTIONS WITH REGARD TO ECONOMIC COOPERATION. POLICY HAS YET TO GEL, HE ADDED, BUT FUKUDA-CARTER CONVERSATIONS AND FIRST MEETING OF "JAPAN ASEAN CONSULTATIVE FORUM" LATER THIS MONTH SHOULD HELP GOJ REACH CONSENSUS. SHOEMITH

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
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